

FILE B

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English Language Arts: Writing Item Information and Scoring Guide Reference Sheet, Writing Prompt and Learning Results, Scoring Guide and Training Notes, and Student Responses

NOTE: Each student's total writing score is based on a response to the writing prompt **and** the reading/writing response item. (Refer to page C-57 for scoring information.)

Item Information and Scoring Guide Reference Sheet

The following pages are designed to assist you in understanding how the Maine Educational Assessment (MEA) writing prompt is scored. These pages contain the prompt accompanied by the following information.

- **Learning Results:** the content standards, followed by the performance indicators, that the item measured
- **Writing Scoring Guide:** the ten-point description used to determine the score, divided into two parts. Stylistic and Rhetorical Aspects of Writing (Topic Idea Development) are scored on a six-point scale, and Standard English Conventions are scored on a four-point scale.
- **Student Responses:**
 - one sample of student work for each score point value (6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1), scored for Topic Idea Development
 - one sample of student work for each score point value (4, 3, 2, 1), scored for Standard English Conventions
 - one exemplar of student work that received the highest possible score points for both Topic Idea Development (6 points) and Standard English Conventions (4 points)

Writing Prompt and Learning Results

What if there were eight days in a week? Write about how you would use the additional day.

Writing Prompt

Learning Results: F-1, G-1, G-2

Standard English Conventions

F Students will write and speak correctly, using conventions of standard written and spoken English. Students will be able to

- 1 edit written work for Standard English spelling and usage, evidenced by pieces that show and contain
 - no significant errors in the use of pronouns, nouns, and adjectival and adverbial forms.
 - coordinating and subordinating conjunctions.
 - no significant errors in the spelling of frequently used words and the correct use of commonly confused terms.
 - no significant errors in the common conventions of capitalization and ending punctuation marks and common uses of the comma.
 - few significant errors in the spelling of commonly misspelled and rare words, the less common capitalization conventions, the colon, semicolon, hyphen, dash, apostrophe, quotation marks, italics, marginal notes, and footnotes.

Stylistic and Rhetorical Aspects of Writing and Speaking

G Students will use stylistic and rhetorical aspects of writing and speaking to explore ideas, to present lines of thought, to represent and reflect on human experience, and to communicate feelings, knowledge, and opinions. Students will be able to

- 1 write stories that effectively develop such elements as setting, major events, and problems and solutions.
- G Students will use stylistic and rhetorical aspects of writing and speaking to explore ideas, to present lines of thought, to represent and reflect on human experience, and to communicate feelings, knowledge, and opinions. Students will be able to
- 2 write pieces and deliver oral presentations that effectively use descriptive language to clarify, enhance, and develop ideas.

Stylistic and Rhetorical Aspects of Writing

Topic Idea Development

1	2	3	4	5	6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Little topic development and/or organization, few details Possible evidence of voice Simplistic language (wording and sentence structures) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited topic development, focus, and/or details Evidence of voice Limited variety in language used (wording and sentence structures) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderate topic development, focus, and details Some voice Some variety in language used (wording and sentence structures) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Well developed with control and relevant details Consistent voice Variety in language used (wording and sentence structures) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fully developed with strong details Sustained voice and/or tone with emerging style Effective use of language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Topic and details richly developed Distinctive voice, tone, and style Rich use of language

Topic Development	The overall effect of the response
Organization	The degree to which the response is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focused Clearly and logically ordered Clarified by paragraphs
Details	The degree to which the response includes examples that develop the main points
Language/Style	The degree to which manipulation of language, including vocabulary, word choice, word combination, and sentence variety is effective

Standard English Conventions

1	2	3	4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Errors seriously interfere with communication and/or Little control of sentence structure, grammar and usage, and mechanics in first-draft writing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Errors interfere somewhat with communication and/or Few or no errors in simplistic or limited text in first-draft writing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Errors do not interfere with communication and/or Few errors relative to length of essay or complexity of sentence structure, grammar and usage, and mechanics in first-draft writing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Control of a variety of sentence structures, grammar and usage, and mechanics Length and complexity of essay provide opportunity for student to show control of Standard English conventions in first-draft writing

Sentences	The degree to which the response includes sentences that are correct in structure
Grammar and Usage	The degree to which the response demonstrates correct <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of standard grammatical rules of English Word usage and vocabulary
Mechanics	The degree to which the response demonstrates correct <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Punctuation Capitalization Spelling

Training Notes for Writing Prompt

Student Responses Scored for Topic Idea Development

Topic Idea Development Score Point 6 Paper—page B-8

This essay is richly developed and reveals a strong quality of compositional crafting. The writing is truly engaging, facility of language is sophisticated, and organization is precise and highly effective—a fine example of sophisticated first-draft writing.

Topic Idea Development Score Point 5 Paper—page B-11

This essay is fully developed. The writer wants to spend more time with family, and develops strong, relevant ideas to explain and support this point. Voice is evident throughout the essay, and language is used effectively.

Topic Idea Development Score Point 4 Paper—page B-14

The writer develops the novel idea of shortening school days, and supports this proposal with relevant details that are well developed and fit in a clear organizational plan. Voice is evident in the way in which the audience is addressed, and this quality is maintained throughout the piece.

Topic Idea Development Score Point 3 Paper—page B-16

This essay presents a good example of moderate topic development, focus, and use of details. The writer's voice is evident in what seems to be a deliberately conversational tone. Language is not sophisticated, but shows some variation in use of sentence structures.

Topic Idea Development Score Point 2 Paper—page B-17

This essay is limited in topic development. The writer gives one pro and one con for adding another day to the week, but support is brief. There is limited variety in language.

Topic Idea Development Score Point 1 Paper—page B-18

This essay shows little topic development. Details are presented, but not developed. Organization is very weak, and use of language is simplistic.

Student Responses Scored for Standard English Conventions

Standard English Conventions Score Point 4 Paper—page B-19

The writer demonstrates control of a variety of Standard English conventions in text that is complex and entertaining.

Standard English Conventions Score Point 3 Paper—page B-22

There are few errors relative to the complexity of the essay, and there is no interference with communication.

Standard English Conventions Score Point 2 Paper—page B-23

There is some (minor) interference with communication in simple text.

Standard English Conventions Score Point 1 Paper—page B-24

Errors in sentence structure, punctuation, and spelling in simplistic text reveal little control of Standard English conventions.

Exemplar Student Response Paper—page B-25

Topic Idea Development Score Point 6

This essay is finely crafted. Rich topic development is achieved through development of rich images that are precisely integrated within a purposeful organizational plan. Sophisticated use of language supports this level of overall effect and establishes the basis of a unique tone and style that is evident throughout the piece.

Standard English Conventions Score Point 4

Clear control of conventions is demonstrated in this complex, carefully crafted essay.

If I could have just one more day each week twenty-four hours in which I was free to do as I pleased, I know exactly what I would do. It may seem a simple wish to yearn for something like time, yet for me, time is a luxury.

At times, I silently beg for a few more hours to sleep in the morning after a fitful night, just one more hour to finish typing a paper that is due, or a few moments to say good-bye. In the modern world, time is an issue, and it seems it is the only thing researchers are not able to make more of. If given the power to create twenty-four extra hours tagged onto the end of the week, I would declare my eighth day a sort of "sabbath." It would be a day of no work, no deadlines, no pressures. I am confident that my new day would alleviate many burdens I face each day.

Some doctors and scientists state that their research confirms that regular exercise and a modified diet have proven to reduce stress and prolong the length of one's life.

Others promote meditation and prayer, in order to find one's center, or focus. I am a strong believer, however, that these studies bring forth even greater panic. Society is continually searching for dietary supplements, fitness equipment, and "miracle drugs" for comfort and reassurance. There is such an intense focus on what we, as a people, need to do in order to live longer, fuller lives, that society is completely caught up in every innovative study and media hype. Man, since the dawn of time, has struggled to find eternal life. Man seeking the "fountain of youth" is not so different from Americans purchasing each new fitness fad. I feel that if we take a closer look at what makes us tired and weak to begin with, we are one step closer to the solution. It all boils down to time.

If there was one more day in the week, I would have no need for many of my stress-reducing devices. I would not need the medication to ease my headache pains and I am confident that my constant whining for more sleep in the morning would cease. Every eighth day, I would sleep until my body was completely rested and ready for a new day. I would complete all assignments I had put off until just before the due date, I would take the time to say goodbye, and I would certainly spend more time with those that are dear to me. My health, my education, and my comfort are important to me, yet one only has their family and friends for so long. Sometimes, when it's time to say that final farewell, there is not enough time in the world to express the right words; and when he or she is gone, one often grieves for the lack of time they spent together. The eighth day will ease this pain, and I will never again be rushed when I have to say goodbye. A farewell is simply not something to make light of.

I would have time to daydream, to imagine what others are doing with their additional day. Maybe someone is running through a field, with the wind playing with their hair. Somewhere in the world, someone is singing softly, and somewhere, someone dances lightly across the smooth floor. Someone is crying, sobbing, until there are no tears left to shed. They have the time to grieve, the time to heal, and the time to move on. Possibly, there is a person laughing with a friend, and taking the time to listen. A life is changed because of this - someone is comforted and no longer feels so alone,

so neglected. As I carefully trace these words, I can't help but fantasize at how soothing an extra day would be. If someone presented this notion to me in conversation, I might scoff at the idea, but somehow, seeing these words scribbled on paper, I feel differently. I realize how my life is ruled by the restraints of time, or lack thereof. I am a prisoner.

People say that "every second counts." It is true. Society should learn to cherish each moment, as it may be the last. One day with no obligations would bestow ^{on the world} the time to ponder life, and what it means. Time is precious, and I would spend my day with all I deem of importance. I would hoard it, like a greedy child, and I would relish in the sheer idea of it. My day would be my day, and nothing could stop me. I would overcome the odds, and I would live to be two hundred.

It's kind of funny how almost everybody wishes that there were more hours in the day. But has anyone actually planned out what they would do if they were given an extra twenty-four hours? I think many people would be happy just getting a few more hours a week to do what they wanted with. Unfortunately, if that extra day were to be added to a week, most people would use it to do more work or add more clubs or meetings to their already full schedule. Our society today is so fast paced that no one knows where his or her life is going. That extra day that we could have should be used to find ourselves, to slow down and learn more about the people we care about around us.

I know exactly what I would do with that extra day. It's really obvious that the majority of people would try to "catch up on their sleep" but since it is scientifically proven impossible to do that, I would get up around eight or so to start my day. I feel that it is very important to get in touch with how my body is feeling every morning, so that's when I would do my stretching. Stretching is such an important daily ritual. It wakes up my muscles and prepares me for another day. While I'm relaxing, I pray to God to help me get through another day without any problems or worries. This helps me to feel comfortable with what I have coming with the day ahead. I know I can depend on God to help me get through whatever I have coming up and that I shouldn't worry about it.

My family is sitting around our diningroom table, discussing whatever is on our minds. That's how I picture breakfast, and that's why the eighth day of the week would be so important to gain. Families would be able to come together and really learn more about each other and what's going on in each family member's life. America is so accepting of dysfunctional families because there are so many of them, but there really don't have to be if everyone at least acted like they cared about the rest of their family.

The discussion at the breakfast table would end after we finished finalizing our family plans for the day. Maybe we'd all go see a movie after a lunch out somewhere. If it were fall, we might go climb Haystack, a small mountain near our city, to see all of leaves changing colors. Whatever it is that we decide to do, we would do as a family. Maybe we could even go visit our extended family that live downstate. I am not the kind of person that dreads going to see my aunts and uncles, cousins and grandparents. Most of the time I really enjoy it. I never know if one day something could happen to one of them and I don't want to think to myself that I didn't spend enough time with that person and regret it. Being close to my whole family is so very important to me. They are my support system. If just one of them were to not be there when I needed them then I really don't know what I would do.

The whole day I would be hanging out with

my family, which seems great to me
I know to some people that might be
torture and I feel bad for those people that feel
that way. I know that I am extremely lucky to
have the kind of family that I have and that this
day would be the last thing that even most of
my friends would want to do if they had that
extra twenty-four hours. To me, it would be an
extra day that I would look forward to all week long.

If there was to be eight days in a week, I believe that this extra day should be used in order to make the hours we spend in school each day shorter. This may sound confusing, so I'll explain precisely what I mean. We would attend school from eight A.M. until 12:00 P.M. Monday through "Shauday", 6 days. The reason for doing this is allowing more free time in our afternoons to do what we wish, instead of being stuck in school throughout the whole afternoon.

It would be a good solution in helping the "slackers" in school complete their homework. We would all be able to spend time with our friends, but then would leave more time to complete the given homework assigned. So the teacher's would not be allowed to assign more homework, because the hours we attend school would not be lengthened.

We could eliminate lunch from our daily schedule. We could stay focused on school work all day. Lunch often effectuates our focus onto other matters, such as our friends and plans for afterschool. Speaking of "afterschool", if you choose to participate in an afterschool activity, such as sports, homework may often not be athletes first priority. If the sports begin directly afterschool (12:00 P.M.) they would be able to run for the same amount of hours each day, but this would still leave us more time throughout the evening to engage in our homework. By having the practices

six days a week instead of five, and lasting the same amount of hours each day, would actually add to the amount of hours we practice. It would definitely improve our skills and abilities as athletes. I believe the hours of practice should not be shorter because the school day is. Athletics and other afterschool activities are electives, we choose to participate in them, we are forced to attend school.

Having the eighth day of the week would prove to be very useful. Nobody wants shorter weekends and this would be a solution to the problems many students acquire during their daily schedules. The atmosphere would be less stressful, as no one would be running around worried about not completing the assignments. This indeed may help with our progression in succeeding in school, by learning more and staying in focus. Thus our scores for the "M.E.A" testing would prove to be higher, but most of all we would have more time to live happy lives.

This may sound strange but If there were eight days in a week either the year would be longer or there would be less weeks in a year. So the big question is what would I do on the eighth day.

I guess it would have to depend on what kind of day it is. It would also depend where it would be figured in. If it was a good day and I wasn't in school I would probably do something fun. Something fun such as going swimming in the river or going out to do something with my friends. Maybe go bowling or go to the movies figuring they would be open on the eighth day.

Let's stop calling it the eighth day and call it, say friendsday. If friendsday was in the middle of tuesday or wednesday than it would probably be a school day. That would mean I would have to go to school for that day. That wouldn't be fun.

But if friendsday was during the school week but it was just an extra day off. Than that would be good. That would give me a chance to do the fun stuff.

If friendsday was during the weekend than I would probably do my swimming, bowling, and hanging out with my friends. I guess I could go for that.

Let me put it in a different perspective. If the new day was a work day than it would mess everything up.

But anyway I would probably just try to live the eighth day normal just like any other day and make the best of it. The only way the day would be special is if they make it a national holiday. If They make us do anything or something That day every week. But after awhile it would just get boring.

IF there were eight days in a week I would use the additional day depending on what category it fell into. IF the new day prolonged the working week it would certainly be used differently from a day on the weekend.

For example if the new day was part of the weekend, it would mean there was more time away from the bustle and bustle of mainstream life. This would also take away the stress of a shorter working week. I would use this day to relax and watch television or visit with family or friends.

IF the additional time was added to the working week, I predict that the level of stress would rise ~~mine~~ in me. I would not want the misfortune of a having a longer working or school week because I would not have enough time to reflect on the week as a whole, once it was over.

If there had to be an additional day added to the seven day week, I can only hope it extended the weekend.

If there were eight days in a week I would have that extra day a weekend day. Just because the weekend is not long enough and you are too tired when you come to school on Monday you also do not have time to see all of the people that you want to see on a regular two day weekend. You would not have to work on the eighth day either everyone would have the day off. It would be like a national holiday but it would be every week.

Another day, another twenty-four hours, another one thousand four hundred and forty minutes. When put that way a day seems like an eternity, an endless clock, but I have lived and if I am sure of one thing it is this: time is short. The moment, my friends, is now.

Part of me wishes to completely disregard the question, on the grounds that each second is a beautiful one, a precious one and to dream about what I will do tomorrow is foolish and a sin.

But I'm here, and there's a number two pencil in my hand (which usually signifies an important test) so I might as well tell you what I'd do with another day.

It would be my Art day. So much time in my life is wasted and trashed doing what others ask of me. My Latin teacher says you can't give teenagers a life or they'd just screw it up, but I disagree. I would take that extra day in the blink of an eye and I would use it to fill my life with what I want to do, Art.

I could spend all morning painting the sky. Pretending I was bird and I could see every detail, every gray puff and blue patch.

At lunch I would eat cheese and drink chocolate milk, a vegetarian's delight.

I would sit in the middle of a highway with colored chalk and draw pictures and carefully scribe poems. I'd shout to all the cars to slow down and stop rushing everywhere. I'd have little kids surround me and we'd dance barefoot on hot tar because little kids are the only real adults in this overpopulated mess.

I would paint my body every color and run around like a moving rainbow. I'd make people smile.

I'd decorate my house like a huge collage pasting memories upon memories on the wall so if you peeled them back like an onion you'd be peeling away my thoughts.

I'd spend hours cleaning dirty words off desks and replacing them with murals that advocate compassion and understanding.

I'd write letters to the president and all the political leaders in watercolors and I would tell them how imperative and beneficial art in the classroom and community is.

I would paint my dogs toenails to match mine.

I'd go crazy and wild and use the earth and her people as a giant

canvas. Eliminate hatred,
replacing it with rainbow
beauty.

What would I do with another
day? Another twenty-four hours, another
one thousand, four hundred and forty
minutes. Well I'll tell you one thing, I
wouldn't be sitting here.

If there were eight days in a week, I would use the day sparingly. I would use the additional day for me. I wouldn't come to school on the eighth day. Every day, on the eighth day, I would fake sick; if there was school, I would make the eighth day count. Some people might just sleep the day away, but not me. They might even just eat and sit in front of the T.V., but not me.

If there were eight days in a week, I would spend it with my friends and family. I would go to the mall and go shopping with my girlfriend. I would go up to the football field and play football with my friends. I would go out in the woods with my dad and brother to cut wood. I would go to my sister's house and help winterproof her house, but most of all I would be there for any one of them.

I would be there for my friends when they have a bad day. I would sit there and listen. But I would have to do more than that. Because friends don't just listen, they also try to comfort, and just be there for their friends.

I think my brother looks up to me, so I would try to go to more of his games. I would watch him get the most rebounds on the team, I would watch him make the biggest hit on the team, and I would watch him hit the most home runs on the team.

I would be there for all of them, so they wouldn't doubt that I am here for them, that I love them, and will always be there for them. That's what I would do if there were eight days in a week.

If there was ~~Right~~ days in a week I would use it to my advantage to complete projects around the house that I would normally have no time to do.

The first thing that I would do is ~~sleep~~ sleep in, since I never get to ~~set~~ sleep in past seven in the morning. I could get a good amount of sleep to balance off the lack of sleep during the week. Going to school and then to work on weekdays and working all day on weekends gets tiring to me. I could begin the next week well refreshed with a healthy, positive attitude.

Once I did finally recuperate from the work week I would use the rest of the day to enjoy myself and do things that I wanted to do. For example I would go to the mall and shop or just jump in the car and take a relaxing ride. Somewhere like the White Mountains. I guess you could call it a vacation day. Everyone needs some personal time to get off that tiring working week beat where everything is the same day after day for week after week. I would use this day as I pleased and spend time with family and friends.

If there was an eight day in a week. I would find out if we had school on that day. If I did I would probly go. But if I didn't I think I would spend it with my family doing what ever. Or mabe I would spend it with some friends just hanging out. I could spend some time doing what I want to do. Over all I think I would spend that day with god. All though I really don't know what I would do.

The pond is silent except for the popping of my popper fly. The clear image and the stillness of the water is blurred and upset as I reel my line in. Fly fishing is a new hobby that I started this past spring with my dad. If there was an extra day in the week, I would go fishing all day.

The power of the stillness of the pond is transferred through my being as I fish. I love being on the water; I feel apart of my surroundings. Seeing a turtle sunning himself on a log, I can feel the coolness of the water as he slowly lowers himself in. The excitement, however, comes from the fish.

In the middle of the pond there are clusters of lily pads. Fishing here can be challenging, but it is where the biggest fish hide. As I cast, I challenge myself not only to catch a fish, but to make a beautiful long cast as well. In order to do this, I have to make a big loop as I cast over my head and then bring the line down at the right time, and with gentle power, so as to lay the line on top of the water softly. My cast is not perfect, but I manage to get a lot of line out. Now the tricky part comes. I have to imitate a creature that is attractive to the bass. Dodging the lily pads, I begin to bring the line in. I must keep the line straight and, holding the rod with my right hand, pull quickly on the line with my left. Doing this makes the wonderful popping sound that attracts

the bass. Gradually my popper has been pulled in and it is time to cast again. The fish tease me. All around the canoe there are fish jumping. This makes me desire a catch even more.

Once again I cast my line. This time the line goes a little further out; this will increase my chances. I begin to pop again. I feel my line jerk. Quickly I pull the rod up a bit to set the hook, but there is no longer a fish near it; I got a strike. More excited now, I concentrate on using correct technique. I pull even more quickly on my line to make a loud pop, but now I try to be patient and let the popper rest. I bring it in more, then let it rest. I feel my line jerk again and, not wanting to let my fish get away this time, I quickly set the hook. I got it! The fish flips its tail and the water splashes, disrupting the silence. I let more line out so the fish will struggle and tire. He gives me a good fight. The excitement comes from the fight.

Finally the fight is over and I bring him in close to the side of the canoe. I dip my hand in the water, so I won't hurt the fish, and then take him into my hand. I take the hook from his mouth and lower him again into the water. As I watch him slip away from my fingers, I feel this enormous sense of contentment. It would be wonderful to have this extra day to be on the water all day.